The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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PLEA FOR "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW COMES FROM WHITE HOUSE

"No freedom loving citizen should vote for any candidate who will not pledge himself to oppose any form of compulsory labor law."

* * *

The importance of the above A. F. of L. declaration is emphasized by a recent White House statement, and by United States Senator Spencer's advocacy of a big stick court, with power to handle strikes and jail workers.

The president has already notified congress that he favors incorporation of trade unions. Since then the Coronado decision would seem to make incorporation unnecessary, as the United States supreme court has ruled that unincorporated trade unions can be sued.

In his second coal-strike letter to the governor of Michigan the president definitely ranged himself on the side of the coal owners and blamed the workers for the coal strike. He said he would ask congress to pass legislation, which "must be provided."

As there now exists ample governmental conciliation processes for any fair-minded employer, other legislation would be based on force rather than mutuality and good will.

The president also stated that he was with the coal owners in their opposition to a renewal of the central competitive field contract. The coal owners want state, district and sub-district contracts, as existed 25 years ago.

The president said this question is the "big issue" in the mine strike; that the miners "assumed national dictation," which must be dealt with by congress.

"I do not know of any way of settling (the strike) under the legal authorities which are now possessed by either state or federal government.

"Manifestly, legislation must be provided, and I mean to include the whole problem to congress at the earliest consistent time possible after the house reassembles.

"The mine workers unhesitatingly assumed national dictation. It is the big issue involved in the present dispute. Frankly, I think it must be dealt with if we are to have any security and any assurance of a supply of fuel."

It will be noticed that no reference is made to the coal owners' violation of a central competitive field (western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois) contract that was underwritten by the government and which provided that when the old agreement expired (on March 31 last) the mine workers and coal owners should meet to arrange for a renewal of that contract.

The cause for the coal strike is the coal owners' refusal to meet the miners. Because the miners strike they are charged with "national dictation" and a demand for handcuff law is made by the chief executive.

With the president's position so clearly stated, and with a "can't-strike" law proposed in the senate by one of the administration's spokesmen, labor needs no other hint of what is contemplated.

The success of this proposal is assured if labor does not continually challenge the sophistry and muddled reasoning of slave law advocates.

The workers will be bound to their tasks if they permit a continuance of the cozy, mushy public opinion that does not distinguish between convenience and involuntary servitude.

Labor everywhere should force this issue to the front.

The enslavement of free men can not be concealed by honeyed words or sugar-coated terms.

Insist that every candidate for executive, legislative and judicial office answer this question:

"Do you favor any form of compulsory labor?"

Drive home the eternal truth that if one man is enslaved, all are enslaved; that the bond man's chain encircles all others.

Insist that there is but one strike preventitive—remove the cause for strikes.

Expose the appalling, wasteful failures of jails and force used against those who but demand the right to live a developing life.

COURT OF "CONCILIATION" BASED ON JAILING LABOR

Washington, Aug. 12.—In a "can't-strike" bill introduced by Senator Spencer that lawmaker seems to have reached the limit in the great indoor sport of making labor safe for autocracy.

The Missouri senator would create a court of three members, appointed by the president, with all the power and rights of a United States district court to enforce its decrees. On the failure of employers and employed to settle a strike involving interstate commerce, this court would make an award. Its findings could only be reviewed by the federal court of appeals in the district in which the award was made. Another appeal could be made to the United States supreme court, if the court of appeals consented.

With fitting sarcasm Senator Spencer styles his slave proposal "A bill to establish the federal court of conciliation."

Another camouflage is the provision that the court shall "make no order, judgment or decree" requiring "any individual man to work except when and where and under such conditions as he pleases."

This "catch" will not fool workers, who will quickly note that they will be debarred from compelling "any individual man" to work against his will, no such provision applies to large groups and masses of workers, and these, rather than individual workers, would occupy the attention of the court.

Section 8 of the act provides: "That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with any of the provisions of this act are hereby repealed."

Which would permit the court to smash any federal mediation and conciliation laws that interfered with its purpose of bringing every worker within its slave jurisdiction.

RAILROAD LABOR BOARD IS "PACKED" ON SENIORITY ISSUE, STRIKERS SHOW

Washington, Aug. 12.—With his strike settlement plan rejected by railroad managers because its seniority guarantee, President Harding submits another plan, which provides that the shop men return to work in any position the managers place them and that the railroad labor board settle the question of seniority.

The president says he takes this position because the managers accepted that portion of his first proposal which called for recognition of the board's decision as contemplated by law. The shop men took the same position when they accepted the president's first proposal in its entirety.

The president now assumes to know that the men at their work but shop men reply that when they said they would accept decisions by the board as provided by the first statement, it was in connection with another section, that their seniority would be returned to them.

One part of our acceptance can not be approved and the other part rejected, say the shop men, who refuse to be placed in the position of repudiating their pledge and record.

The shop men also have in mind the attitude of the railroad labor board on the question of seniority. When the strike was called the board declared that "they (the shop men) have thus automatically abandoned all the rights they possess under their agreements and under the decisions of the board including their seniority. It must be understood now that the men who remained in the service and those who are now entering it will have rights of seniority that the board could not ignore."

If further evidence were needed to show that the railroad labor board is "packed" against the workers' seniority claim, the shop men cite an action by the board the day the president made his second offer. At the board's meeting in Chicago, A. O. Wharton, a new member of the board, offered an amendment which would rescind the board's declaration which stamped the strikers as outlaws. The proposal was defeated.

As the matter now stands, the board's declaration against the strikers is a matter of record and the president suggests that the strikers go on with their work and ask it to return their seniority.

Executives of the shop men declare that the strikers are forbidding sale of telegrams to further spread the president's plan.

FRANTIC BOSSES START "ONE-BIG-UNION" MOVE

Washington, Aug. 12.—President Gompers has made public a copy of a general call to employers throughout the country to rally to the aid of railway managers in smashing the shop men's strike. The call for an employers' "one big union" is issued by the national industrial council, consisting of a score of employers' organizations, and is as follows:

"The railway strike will be won if organized industry acts immediately and effectively. Situation as much a test of our ability as of railway executives. Immediate steps are, first, volume expression associations, but particularly individuals, to president sustaining position railroads on seniority question and urging settlement transportation support; second, immediate conference with your local railway officials for purpose assistance them to shops; third, pressure on presidents roads your territory to stand firm on position to date. We speak advisedly; make suggested actions imperative and permit no delay. Urgently request wire reply. National industrial council."

This call to the business interests of the country can be summed up as follows:

Defeat President Harding with telegrams that he is wrong and the railroad managers are right on the seniority question.

Confer with local railroad officials and aid them to man shops. Loan them some of your "free and independents" if possible.

Put pressure on railroad officials in your vicinity to stand firm against the shop men.

"We speak advisedly," or in other words, we know the shop men will win if you don't act.

The telegram, according to President Gompers, has been sent to every employers' association in the country, to chambers of commerce, to civic bodies and other organizations in an effort to rally all anti-union employing interests to the support of the small group of railroad executives who dominate the association of railway executives. The telegram makes clear the character of the campaign being waged against the unions, said President Gompers.

U. S. BANK SYSTEM DEFLATED FARMERS

Washington, Aug. 12.—How the federal reserve banking system deflated farmers, who could not raise money on their liberty bonds was explained by Senator Heflin of Alabama who showed an acknowledgement by the governor of the federal reserve bank at Atlanta that a small Mississippi bank was charged 8½ per cent interest. This bank furnished money to farmers at crop-moving time. In reply to Senator Heflin's statement that farmers could get money elsewhere if they had security, Senator Heflin said:

"But their security was being destroyed every day by this deflation process. Cotton was 40 cents a pound, and in a few months it was 10. It was $100 a bale at the outset, and when the farmer could not get money with which to hold it off the market, it went down to $50 a bale.

"They refused to loan money on liberty bonds, and bonds were forced out of the hands of people who had struggled hard to buy them and sold for 85c and $90 on the $100. They were forced to sell those bonds because they could not borrow the needed money on them.

"Wall street got the bonds and practically stole $15 to $20 on the $100 from patriotic people who bought bonds to help their country win the war."

MR. COOLIDGE TALKS.

Boston, Aug. 12.—The cause for present conditions is that the masses of the people are striving for luxuries, said Vice President Coolidge in an address at an industrial conference at Wellesley Hills.

"Because of war," he said, "there was a great rise in the general scale of living. What was once luxuries became necessities. But the great mass of people, regardless of station, found this extraordinary material prosperity disappointing and unsatisfying. Believing that the cause of their discontent was still a lack of possessions, they reached out for more until an artificial condition was created that was beyond the power of the resources of the nation to sustain."

Other profound utterances by the vice president were:

"There is no substitute for virtue.

"The great power of mankind has been created through unity of action.

"The people of America have long been committed to democracy."

SHOE WORKERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, Aug. 12.—After resigning from the boot and shoe manufacturers' association, the Sam B. Wolf shoe company signed an agreement with the Boot and Shoe Workers' union, by which 400 workers are affected. These employes were on strike for 10 weeks against a wage reduction. James A. Wilson, president of the Pattern Makers' league, acted as mediator between the two parties.

Hey! Mister Public! Get Busy on This!

Washington, Aug. 12.—Reports received at headquarters of the Railway Mail association in this city, from local officials throughout the country, show that practically all mail trains are now running late as a result of defective locomotives and impaired air equipment. Railway postal clerks in charge of mail cars and mail trains say that the condition of train equipment as a result of the strike is becoming so serious that operation of trains on time schedule is impossible. This failure of the railroads to operate trains on time is resulting in much delay to mails because of failure to connect with important and important mail centers.

Reports also show that since the strike started railroad companies have made little effort to properly clean cars used in mail service, in contracts with the government. The mail clerks are complaining that many mail cars are not sanitary because of not being cleaned, and that the drinking water cannot be used because water containers are not cleaned and iced.

MORE CENSORS A-COMIN'.

New York, Aug. 12.—The age of censorship has truly arrived. The latest suggestion for an official censor comes from John S. Sumner, secretary of the New York society for the suppression of vice. This gent is "agin" the bobbed hair, and wants a hawk-eyed, blue-nosed committee to censor the "dirty" manuscripts of authors before same is turned over to the publishers.

Library for Labor Urged by Eastern Librarian

Washington, Aug. 12.—A labor library, sustained by labor, is suggested by Louise Hunt, city librarian of Newark, N. J., writing in the American Federationist for August issue. She says no public library is yet, "or is likely to be for generations to come, well enough supported financially to meet the needs of its entire constituency—blacksmiths, teachers, doctors, lawyers, garment workers, engineers, actors, artists, singers, writers, bridge players, etc., etc., etc.

"The result," she says, in the establishment in New York and other large cities of such labor libraries, each maintained by the particular group which it serves, which has come to be known as the engineering society, medical association librarian's law library, etc., is that everything "has gone into print" which is considered worth while enough expended financially to meet the needs of its entire constituency—blacksmiths, teachers, doctors, lawyers, garment workers, engineers, actors, artists, singers, writers, bridge players, etc., etc., etc.

"Where does labor secure its information? It is well enough completely filled are the needs of labor for research, study and recreation, supplied by the printed page?

"When the miners and the railroad men of the United States began to organize, because co-operation was needed they did immediately at hand all official and authoritative material on the trade unions in England, showing what this alliance had aimed to do, how far it had succeeded, in what it had failed and why?

"Where would an investigator being sent into the West Virginia mining district to report conditions, past and present, find collating information, in print with which to prepare himself for this mission?

"The building trades wished to present a practical program for solving the housing problem, where would they find everything of importance in print about the Pattern of the Garden City of the Glasgow building trades?

"Where would one find reliable information about the present form and status of labor unions in Russia?

"It would be unreasonable to expect the average public library of today, even in the larger cities, to provide such material fully prepared for the immediate use of specialists.

"At a very small per capita cost there ought to be organized and maintained a great labor library that would be of value to the many hundreds of thousands of workers in and around New York and also be of service in times of stress to groups in any part of the country.

"The labor library should build up a large reference collection on labor, economics, sociology—all subjects, in fact, of interest to workers, as employes. Its material should be new, from every country or one language, its field should be the world. It should gather the things of most pressing need should be collected first.

"It is estimated that there are in and around New York city about 250,000 trade unionists. If each union would contribute a sum amounting to, say, $5 fees a year for each member, that alone would give an annual budget of $212,500. This would be a great deal four times as much would do more. The only limit to the possibilities of such an institution that need be set is the financial limit that its supporters and users see fit to place upon it.

"There is only one thing necessary to make this library a reality and that is the will of the workers to make it so. As has been pointed out, library service is the cheapest of community service (perhaps that is why it is so often neglected).

"The price of a book a year, adopted by all the unions, would work miracles."

POSTAL OFFICIAL IN BLIND ALLEY

Washington, Aug. 12.—First Assistant Postmaster General Bartlett finds himself in a blind alley in his controversy with the National Federation of Post Office Clerks over violations of the eight-hour law.

The clerks have been protesting against these violations. Mr. Bartlett claimed that the bonds permitted him to work the employes under the "emergency" clause of the law. The clerks called this to the president, who stated that the "failure of congress to provide reasonable funds for the performance of this work scarcely creates an emergency."

Then Mr. Bartlett resorted to the hoary scheme of beclouding the issue by naming post office clerks not to be deceived by propaganda, and declaring that the clerks' federation have misrepresented the post office department's position.

In a public statement, President Hyatt and Secretary Flaherty of the clerks' federation say:

"We are amazed at Harding's interpretation of the eight-hour law. Seemingly, Mr. Harding is not. But Mr. Bartlett is reluctant to take issue with the president. Instead, in a weak attempt to save his face he attacks the officers of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks."

The trade unionists also call attention to Mr. Bartlett's astonishing propaganda while "postmasters have been commanded to see that every clerk works only eight hours has to say on this and other issues. About one-fifth he is also obviously uninformed."

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Chicago, Aug. 12. — Organized street car workers ended their strike for several days, have accepted a compromise settlement and returned to work. Practically all wages is agreed to, but all other working conditions will continue.

Shift Black Legs To Southern Roads

New York, Aug. 12.—Picked crews of "volunteer" shop men were sent to southern roads hit hard by the strike, it was announced by L. J. Loree, president of the Delaware & Hudson road and president of the eastern presidents' conference. The roads are the Chesapeake & Ohio, Norfolk & Western, Louisville & Nashville, and the Virginian. Union officials laughed at the announcement and stamped it as "another bluff."

"Sending strikebreakers from here down to southern roads," said Secretary Treasurer Williams, secretary of the strike committee, "has been going on for weeks without success. Mr. Loree's road about one month ago sent a crew having their hands full trying to get enough mechanics to keep equipment from breaking down. Any 'volunteers' are being sent to the southern roads now. Any more are wooldbe craftsmen who have been kicked out of eastern shops and others have been found to be worthless.'"

WANT WRECKS PROBED.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The increasing number of railroad wrecks can be traced to the increasing number of defective locomotives, suggested President Gompers, in a public statement.

"It seems to me entirely proper," he said, "that in every case of a railroad accident there should be an immediate inquiry by public officials who are not under the influence of railroad authorities and that the public should be immediately informed of the results of such inquiry. In order that it may be known whether use of unfit locomotives, defiance of rules of safety and in defiance of law, is taking a toll of human life.

"Railroad reiterations by persons evidently in possession of accurate information of charges that totally unfit locomotives are being used both in the freight and passenger service of the various railroads justifies the demand for some other explanation for the increasing number of wrecks than those offered by railroad officials."

WHO CAUSED COAL SHORTAGE

New York, Aug. 12.—Coal owners and railroad managers are quarreling between themselves over responsibility for the present coal shortage. The difference is but emphasizing the strategic position for use when howls are heard this winter because of the coal situation.

This difference must not be understood as splitting the coal owners' and rail managers' opposition to unity against the coal and rail strikers.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Omaha, Neb., Aug. 12.—The annual convention of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor will be held in this city beginning September 4.

Paths Blazed By Labor; Other Citizens Follow.

Washington, Aug. 12.—"Have you ever heard of an industry which reduced the hours of labor and raised wages until a strike or threatened strike compelled such action?

"None of the so-called forces of good, neither the church or any other, has ever attempted the remparts of greed until the striking laborers themselves had blazed the trail through the indifference of indifferentism."—Points made by Clarence C. Smith, national university law school, this city, in successful joint debate against "can't-strike" laws.

WHY SEA NO LONGER LURES BOYS

San Francisco, Aug. 12.—Statesmen, editors and publicists who marvel why the American boys shun the sea, should be interested in this editorial by the Seamen's Journal:

"The wage cutting policy officially inaugurated by the United States shipping board on May 1 of last year has been carried on with a vengeance ever since. American seamen have been virtually driven off American ships. Only cheap and servile labor is wanted—none other need apply.

"The custom of employing Chinese on crews on American ships has been fostered by the shipping board. It received a setback only when the Chinese seamen struck for higher wages and won their point to the extent of receiving $40 wages for the time they had been on strike.

"It will be recalled that the importation of Chinese crews to American ports, and their transfer from vessel to vessel, has been sanctioned by one of those incomprehensible decisions of the United States supreme court.

"Notwithstanding this ruling, one American shipping company has gone a step further. Chinese are being imported to display the American seamen in the coastwise trade. Fifty Chinese seamen were recently brought over from the Orient on the shipping of the steamship Wolverine State. Reporting this to President Harrison, these Chinese were transferred to the harbor of San Francisco to the Pacific mail company's steamship Equador, and are now employed on that vessel in the coastwise trade between San Francisco and Panama.

"Neither the contract labor law nor the Chinese exclusion act have any terror for the American shipowner. As far as the language test and the head tax are concerned, it seems that even a child could easily evade such inspectors. 'Everything goes' is another slogan of the present administration when it comes to the manning of American ships.

"Since the time when conditions were all thrown overboard in favor of cheap labor a year ago, anyone who has the temerity to mention such matters or suggest a return to the old order of affairs is promptly branded as a union agitator.

"In the meantime, does any rational, red-blooded American with the slightest knowledge of the facts as outlined herein, want his boy to adopt the sea as a profession?"

P. O. Clerks Removed; Others Are Speeded Up.

Washington, Aug. 12.—President Gompers has forwarded protests to President Harding and to the chairman of the house and senate post office committees against the removal of railway post office clerks and the speeding up of others. This action followed a conference with representatives of the railway mail service.

The protest, which was previously done by these clerks is being loaded on the remaining clerks in the service. The working hours of the regular clerks have been increased, despite pay for the time formerly worked by those placed on the surplus list. This reduced the force for study required by law of the regular clerks to maintain efficiency—a great loss to the service.

FORCE CAN'T END STRIKES.

Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 12.—"If there were any question that enough union men would return to work provided they were given adequate protection, the coal strike might be broken, but there is no such guarantee," says the Age-Herald in a leading editorial.

"The severe presence of troops will not insure the operation of coal mines. In the first place, grave risk is not to be run by mine coal, and if they were sent into the mines their presence would jeopardize their own lives and might lead to the destruction of the operators' property. Of course, no operator in his right senses would try inexperienced labor in such a dangerous calling. Some mine owners who propose to reopen their mines probably figure on drawing men from the ranks of union miners and from non-union districts to get out coal; but it is doubtful if they could produce it in sufficient quantities to make up the shortage which is increasing every day, and points to higher prices next winter.

PUBLIC IS FLAUNTED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 12.—Big business, represented by the local and Philadelphia traction companies, gave a sample of their regard for the public when called upon by the mayor to give their version of the settlement of the street car strike committee appointed for that purpose.

The strikers were represented, but the street car company's representatives failed to appear.

Behind this insult, the members of the mayor's committee presented a minority report, urged by the public to white wash the company. Behind the strike is an attempt to install the anti-union shop. In Philadelphia the company has a company "union," whose members are strikebreakers in this city.

HUGE PROFITS IN PAPER.

New York, Aug. 12.—The Strathmore paper company has made so much money that it announces a stock dividend of 50% per cent. The holder of one share of common stock will be distributed one share of preferred and four shares of new common. Under the new agreement, next year's profits will have to cover more stock, and will not seem so formidable.

The transaction has resulted in the company increasing its capitalization dividend of $1,000,000 to $11,000,000.

RECORDS ARE STOLEN BY ANTI-UNIONISTS

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 12.—In a speech in this city, "The Common and the Poor," William P. Clarke, president of the American Flint Glass Workers' union, stated that records in the union's office were stolen in the Earl Hess coal company of West Virginia in its fight against the union.

"I was satisfied with keeping us (officers of the union) out of West Virginia for approximately seven years, the attorneys in the case came to Toledo and secured other legal assistance.

"The officers of the union were indicted by federal Judge Kilits and were charged with practically every crime imaginable.

"We learned that we did not know what they were talking about, but if they would make their complaint in the proper form we would make answer thereto."

LIVING COSTS GO UP.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The retail cost of food increased 1.5 per cent in cities, from June 15 to July 15, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics. Increases were in the following cities: Seattle and Portland, Me., 4 per cent; Bridgeport and New Haven, 2 per cent; Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee and Minneapolis, 1 per cent; Atlanta, Baltimore, Columbus, Houston, Jacksonville and Peoria, one-half of 1 per cent; Pittsburgh, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

The other nine cities decreased as follows: Philadelphia and Richmond, 1 per cent; Buffalo, Detroit and Kansas City, 1 per cent; Boston, New York, Scranton and Washington, D. C., less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

HOOPER'S "FAIRNESS."

Chicago, Aug. 12.—Chairman Hooper of the railroad labor board is enthusiastic over the president's proposal to settle the seniority issue. He says there will be such a demand for workers that the question of seniority will never arise as a great many roads.

Shop men notice that Mr. Hooper did not make this statement when the railroads rejected the president's first offer because of the seniority guarantee.

LESS COAL MINE DEATHS.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The United States bureau of mines reports that fatal accidents at coal mines were reduced in a smaller degree of life than for any year since 1906.

NON-PARTISAN PLAN WORRIES LABOR FOES

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 12.—The Monitor, official organ of anti-union employers, complains that the non-partisan policy of the New York state federation of labor is meeting continuous attacks on this movement.

In one of his pleas to save reaction at the state capital, the editor makes this plea for advertising patronage from big business:

"We have had some experience with propaganda, and we are afraid of the error of ignoring it for a long time in the case of this organization. We know that it is the constant dripping that wears away the stone. The non-partisan party certainly has the right on its side and it ought to have opportunity to pay for some publicity."

The state federation of labor is giving wide publicity to these shrieks. Officers of the federation say:

"This is all encouraging to the officers in charge of the non-partisan campaign, if indeed we need any further encouragement than the unanimity response from every section of the state, not only from the organized workers but from the intelligent who have studied present conditions and are resolved to free themselves from the reactionary, predatory forces now in control."

PEONAGE IN KANSAS?

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 12.—W. E. Freeman, president of the Kansas state federation of labor, has asked governor to authorize the investigation of the charges of peonage in this state. The trade unionist says:

"Advices from railroad men in the vicinity of Herington and Wellington lead me to believe that members of the national guard on duty at Herington, and railroad guards at Wellington, are usurping their authority by forcing returning from the harvest fields to leave the trains and station platforms at the points of arrival and forcing them to enter the Rock Island and Santa Fe shops, telling them that if they do not go to work in the shops they will be prosecuted for trespassing upon railroad property."

BIG MONEY IN DRUGS.

New York, Aug. 12.—The united drug company reports a clear profit of $1,476,686 for the first six months of the present year. This is a gain of more than $500,000 over the same period last year, and the result is after all charges, including depreciation, taxes and doubtful accounts.

BAKERY BACK IN FOLD.

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 12.—After a three-months' trial the Daylesa bakery company wearied of operating under anti-union conditions and again signed an agreement with the Bakers' union. This makes the Phoenix baking industry 100 per cent organized.

STRIKEBREAKING ROLE ASSUMED BY EMPLOYERS

Indianapolis, Aug. 12.—The vicious manufacturers' association of Indiana has called upon its members to urge employes to take employment in railroad shops.

"It might be a splendid investment to make a little sacrifice in some of the plants of our members for a short time to help out in this crisis," say officers of the association who assure business men that railroad managements in their locality "will be delighted to confer with you."

This association is notorious for its reactionary tendencies and for its insistence that "collective interference" be tolerated in disputes between employed and employer.

MINE WORKERS NOMINATED.

Washington, Aug. 12. — Trade unionists are preparing for a hard fight to elect Fred Mooney and William Blizzard to the state house of delegates, according to letters to A. F. of L. headquarters from H. J. Franklin, secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia state federation of labor.

Mooney is secretary of district No. 17, United Mine Workers, and Blizzard is president of sub-district No. 3. The latter was recently acquitted of conspiracy charges, preferred by a county coal owners.

Mooney and Blizzard fifth in a field of 25 candidates in the republican primaries, with six to be nominated.

A 1,600 majority against them in the city of Charleston was overcome by the solid vote of the coal miners in other sections of Kanawha county.

TIMBER WORKERS WIN.

Kelso, Wash., Aug. 12.—The Long-Bell lumber interests have conceded the eight-hour day to organized timber workers. This concern is one of the largest in the northwest and marks a strong effort to establish the 10-hour day. Strikes were on strike for 10 weeks against a wage reduction. James A. Wilson, president of the Pattern Makers' league, acted as mediator between the two parties.

"WISE" TALK OF LABOR INEFFICIENCY IS PIFFLE

Washington, Aug. 12.—There are few statistical subjects more discussed than "Efficiency of American Labor" and there is none upon which we know less, said Ethelbert Stewart, United States commissioner of labor statistics, in a recent speech, which is published in Monthly Labor Review, issued by the bureau of labor statistics.

"On the one hand we hear much of the superiority of the American workman; on the other we hear much of the degeneration of American labor, of loafing on the job, of job making, etc. When we ask for proof, for figures, for output per man, per hour or per day taken from the records that are the basis of pay rolls, we are told, 'Oh, I have no figures, but what I state is a matter of common knowledge.'

"'Common knowledge' can not be used as evidence. It can not be put up into an index number nor can percentages of increase or decrease from year to year be worked out. The unit of measure, the unit of production in any industry as expressed in money, while interesting and economically important, is not illuminating on the subject of labor efficiency. We want to know not whether the output per man per hour in shoe factories has increased or decreased since 1913 but whether the number of the labor cost per pair of shoes.

"Common labor in the United States may be less efficient than it was 30 or 40 years ago, but it is no longer American. In such industries as the iron and steel, coal mining, railroad construction, brick making and textile mills, and a great many other of our basic industries, immigrant labor, of low-grade efficiency, was sought for and employed in such consequence overrun by races physically weak, as, for example, the Italian, untrained in any industrial occupation and the great majority of the southwestern Europe immigration,

"You hear it said that before the war a bricklayer would lay 1,000 bricks a day, that in Chicago you could get 2,000 bricks laid per man per day, and that now 500 and 750 are all you can get. That is true, but any statement which does not go beyond the number of brick laid by a man in a day does not convey any adequate information.

"It all depends upon whether a bricklayer was working on an 8-inch wall, a 16-inch wall, a solid inch wall or a 24-inch wall, whether he was laying to a line and filling in behind his own work or whether he was laying to a line and some one else was filling in behind him, whether he was laying face brick or building a dead wall.

"The same man might lay 1,500 or 1,750 brick one day and lay 400 the next day, and work harder on the 400 face brick, pointed mortar, than he did on the 1,500 brick. In other words, wide variations exist in a description of the work a thousand brick is not the unit of the bricklayer's efficiency.

"Improvements made about output in the bricklaying trade in the United States since the war, which have come to me, have never been accompanied with definite data as to the width of the wall and the kind of work being done, or with copies of production or time-cost sheets that would confirm the statements made."